

THE PRAIRIE NEWS,

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING BY
J. H. KNOX,
AT OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

TWO DOLLARS per year, if paid in advance—Two Dollars and FIFTY CENTS if not paid within two months—and THREE DOLLARS if not paid within four months, and FIVE DOLLARS will be charged if payment is delayed six months. These prices will be strictly adhered to.

RATES OF ADVERTISEMENTS.

All advertisements will be correctly and conspicuously inserted at One Dollar per Square (10 Brevier Lines or less) for the first insertion, and Fifty Cents for each subsequent insertion.

Advertisements for a distance must be accompanied with the money or good city acceptance. Professional, Commission Merchant's, and other Cards not exceeding one square, per year, Twelve Dollars.—If two squares, Twenty Dollars.—If three squares, Twenty Dollars, with the privilege of changing at pleasure—not to exceed half a column.

Yearly advertisements must be paid for quarterly. Communications of a personal nature, or for the benefit of individuals, corporations or companies will be charged as advertisements.

Obituary notices published without charge, when they do not exceed 10 lines. If longer, charged as advertisements.

Old-Fellows', Masonic, and Sons of Temperance Notices, inserted at half price, if paid for in advance.

For announcing the names of Candidates not inserted until paid for, for Board, County or Town officers, \$5, and \$10 for District or State officers.

Of every description done with neatness and dispatch on the most liberal terms, for Cash.

All letters on business with the office should be addressed to the "Prairie News."

THE PRAIRIE NEWS.

JOHN D. RICHARDSON, EDITOR.

OKOLONA, MISS.

Wednesday, February 3, 1858.

Postmasters are requested to act as Agents.

We are authorized to announce JOHN B. BEAN as a Candidate for county Constable, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of G. W. Foshee. Election 13th February, inst.

The Rev. Mr. GIBSON will preach in the Episcopal Church, at Okolona, on the first, second, and third Sundays of each month, and at Pontotoc on the fourth and fifth Sundays.

We will furnish either Peterson or Arthur's Magazine and the Prairie News one year, to subscribers, for \$3.00. Thus giving the subscriber \$4 worth for \$3.00. Persons desiring to take us up at this proposition, should send in their names immediately. This offer is made only to new subscribers.

What has become of the Mobile Mercury? The last mail brought us a whole annual of all the other Mobile papers, but none Mercury. Come send it up, we value it highly as an exchange.

We send this number of our paper to some who are not subscribers, whom we would be glad to enter upon our books. If the paper is not returned they will be considered as wishing us to continue sending.

self authorized to GIBSON, Constable, say in advertisement choose to

us an exquisite reason of the year is less a present. We imagine who thought so at home whispered, some thus greets you a welcome to the City; and we thought as some

Yes, lovely flower, I find in thee Will sweetness which no words express, And charms in thy simplicity That dwell not in the pride of dress."

We are told that it grew in Mr. SHANNON'S garden.

It will be seen by reference to the candidates corner that Mr. JOHN B. BEAN, is announced as an aspirant for the Constabulary. He is a business young man, and undoubtedly would make a good officer.

The Rev. Mr. GIBSON, has taken charge of the Episcopal Church in our town. He is a gentleman of the most exalted talents, which, added to a highly cultivated, and richly stored mind, eminently qualify him for eloquently and ably expounding the scriptures.

The editor of the Ripley Advertiser born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and some

OUR TOWN.

Like all others, has its disadvantages, but, unlike all others, these disadvantages are greatly counter-balanced by the almost innumerable advantages that surround us. It is true that there are a few inconveniences with which it seems we might dispense, and would call the attention of the City Fathers to the awful and very dangerous condition of our streets and sidewalks. They would do very well if nobody but home-folks were able to see them, but many strangers are daily passing through and stopping in our otherwise agreeable town, and it creates an unfavorable impression on their minds in regard to the liberality of our citizens.—Any one shooting or committing any misdemeanor within the corporate limits are fined, and as there are other sources of revenue, we think that sufficient, at least, could be spared from the city coffers to dig a ditch along either side of the streets so as to drain them of the water which collects and remains in them. We are willing to peril our skins and jeopardize our noses a while longer on the "holy" plank sidewalks, if some of this mud could be gotten out of the way. But, notwithstanding the mud and the wear and tear of shoes consequent, "our town" is rapidly improving and bids fair to be one of the most business places in North or East Mississippi. Improvement is stamped upon everything within the precincts of Okolona. Our blacksmith shops thunder in our ears and bring to our mind that "by the sweat of our brow shall we eat bread." Five or six large dry-goods establishments daily measure off thousands of yards of calicos and domestics, and we confidently say to all within fifty miles of Okolona, that if you want good and cheap bargains and wish to give your trade to gentlemanly and clever men, consult our advertising columns and the merchant who has the articles of which you stand in need, come or send and get them, and, our word for it, you will be perfectly satisfied that you have gotten as good bargains as can be bought this side of Mobile. A plentiful supply of the best and freshest groceries are always on hand, which rival even the dry-goods in cheapness. We have the very best of schools, both male and female.—Messrs. HARRINGTON & WILCOX of the Okolona Male School, are gentlemen of

the highest standing, and have won for themselves an enviable reputation as teachers of the "young idea"—while Mr. McCURDY, of the Female Institute, stands unrivaled in this branch of the noble profession. Four Churches weekly summon us to the shrine of worship, and some of the best educated preachers in the country delight us with their explanations of the Scripture. Two drug stores vend their healing potions to those who are afflicted with the ills that flesh is heir to. Two hotels (one of which, the White House, affords an example which the inns of some larger cities well might imitate) gladden the palate of the weary traveler, revive the spirits of the careworn business man, and furnishes viands that would tempt the appetite of the most luxurious epicure. Two well-kept livery stables always have on hand a supply of the best provender. Several carpenter and cabinet shops turn out as good work as can be executed in the South. Two as good harness and saddlery manufactories as can be found anywhere, are here to furnish anything in their line of business, and besides all these, numbers of candy, toy, and liquor establishments, and all the one horse et ceteras which are usually found in a growing and fast place, are to be found in Okolona, and we heard some time ago, that there was a company organized to put up telegraphic wires from Mobile to this place, which will be done in the course of two or three months. In fact, nothing remains to complete a perfect picture of a business and agreeable city but the absence of mud and sidewalks.

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OUR DEBUT.

Last week was an eventful one in our history, and shall hereafter be reckoned an epoch in our life. As to how we felt when watching the preparation for striking off—the shadowy fears, the flickering hopes that in turn cast their influence on our mind, we leave to the lights of the pen and scissors to imagine—none others can fancy the inexpressible feelings of one just about to realize the wish of Burns—

"O wad some power the giftie gie us,
To see ourselves as others see us."

We scanned the proof-sheet with an eager eye, and were gratified at the appearance we made. There were a few typographical errors, though, which were passed over by our critical eye, in the excitement of the moment, and suffered to remain uncorrected. We have entered a new and untried path, one which is full of vexation and trouble—one in which we can but expect to meet with arduous difficulties and sore disappointments and be eternally bothered (if our contemporaries are to be believed) with that "wait a bit" thorn, delinquency. We have not taken up the tripod to show off our talents; have no such vainglorious ambition to satisfy; but, in saying this, we do not express a want of confidence in ourself. We became an editor because we considered it to our interest, and in doing so, thought that we would be able to make the News what everybody wants, a good paper. This should not be regarded as an egotistic assertion, but one which every man ought to have the frankness to express. We mentioned in our Salutatory that the NEWS would be, as formerly, an advocate of American principles. We possess no title, nor lay any claim to the name of a politician, but we have a right and think it is our duty to advocate and maintain principles which we think just, upright, and patriotic; and what is more, we esteem it the special prerogative of editors to say what they please in reference to politics, as well as other matters, and we, for one, intend to exercise this privilege. American sentiments are instinctive with us; but we do not pretend to say that there is an American party—the principles alone remain. Older political heads than ours admit that the American and Democratic parties are both "gathered to their fathers." That the Democratic, as well as the American party is "dead," no one

not utterly reckless as to his reputation for veracity will deny, and we probably committed an error last week in using the expression, "both parties," as implying their existence. Circumstances and accidents must create new parties, and we hold ourselves in readiness to attach ourself and the influence of our paper to the one which we think most favorable to the interests of the South.

Who does not love a good cigar? In solitude a delightful companion; in adversity an offerer of consolation; in the social quiet of home a most genial comfort; but most particularly are its lulling influences felt, and appreciated, just after a hearty dinner when one finds himself complimented by being presented with a dozen or so of fine cigars—

"Yes, social friend, I love thee well,
In formal doctored spite;
Thy clouds all other clouds dispell,
And lap me in delight."

So whenever you feel inclined to be thrown into an ecstasy of delight, just walk over to WILLIAMS & DARDEN'S, buy some of their fine cigars, and in ten minutes you'll feel too good for this wicked world.

A Western exchange evidently has a very factious editor. Speaking of being at a frolic, he says:

"I didn't stay long, the fact is, we had been rather familiar in our intercourse with a big Red Eye which the Squire had on hand, and consequently soon found ourself feeling limber, and made the discovery that navigation was rather difficult, impeded by what 'deponent saith not,' not knowing. After proceeding some distance we reached a brook of clear crystal water, and the thought struck us that if we were a horse how easily we could imbibe of the liquid trickling stream. Almost instantaneously we imagined ourself transformed into horse, stuck our nose in the water, and quaffed the delicious liquid with a delight hitherto unknown. Having taken in sufficient supply, and played in the mud and water to our satisfaction, we gaily dashed up a slant, but just as we thought of breaking pace to walk leisurely through a bed, we shied at a big black the next moment found us standing against a knotty This brought us to our senses—minutes we were easily

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PUBLIC MEETING.

At a large and respectable meeting of citizens of the counties of Chickasaw, Pontotoc, and Monroe, held in the town of Okolona, on Saturday the 30th of Jan 1858, on motion of Dr. JOS. BRETNRY, Col. JOHN S. TOPP of Pontotoc was called to the Chair, and W. O. COOK, Esq., of Chickasaw appointed Secretary.

The Chairman having briefly explained the object of the meeting, Col. ELI ABBOTT and B. H. SHEPPARD, Esq., were called upon to address the assembly on the subject of their late conference with the Directors of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company, both of whom responded at some length, and in a manner which claimed the respectful and earnest attention of those present.

On motion, the Chair then appointed the following gentlemen as a Committee to prepare and report resolutions for the consideration of the meeting, viz: B. H. SHEPPARD, WILLIAM LIGON, JOHN E. TUCKER, ELI ABBOTT, FLEMING HODGES, E. J. CHAMBERS, G. W. THORNTON, J. A. SYKES, and J. B. GLADNEY.

In due time, Maj. SHEPPARD, on behalf of the Committee, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, as expressive of the sense of this community on the subjects to which they refer.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors for the Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company, have unconditionally rejected the several propositions submitted by a former meeting at this place, for the purpose of raising, in whole or in part, the means necessary for completing the Road from its present terminus to the town of Okolona; And, WHEREAS, this meeting stands prepared to reaffirm the justice and the propriety of each and all the propositions thus submitted and rejected: Therefore, be it

1. Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the interest of the Stockholders in the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, the successful administration of the affairs of the Company, and every consideration of public policy, alike demand the prompt and speedy completion of the Road to Okolona.

2. Resolved, That, to accomplish this object, it is, as we conceive, not only the right, but the duty of the Board of Directors, to apply, forthwith, all the means at their command—especially the fund known as the "Okolona contingent subscription"—the amount appropriated by the last Session of the Mississippi Legislature, and the voluntary aid tendered by the people, along the unfinished line of the Road to Okolona, to the business and the earnings of the Company would be greatly increased—the interest of the Stockholders and the rights of Income-holders would be better secured, and the rights and interests of all parties placed upon a more solid foundation.

3. Resolved, That in view of these unpardonable facts, we think, with all due deference to their better judgments, and with no purpose

Board of Directors, in declining to accede to the propositions above referred to, have fallen short of a just conception of their duty in the premises—have overlooked the interest of the Stockholders and of the country at large, and yielded to the dictates of policy, which persisted in, will, in all probability, result in placing the entire credit and revenues of the Road in the hands of foreign capitalists, having no sympathy in common with the wants and necessities of the great body of the people, for whose benefit the enterprise was originally conceived.

4. Resolved, That in the judgment of this meeting, it is fair to presume, that those of our fellow-citizens who subscribed for Stock in this Road, payable when it shall have been completed to Okolona, did so with the understanding that their money was to be used in aid of building or equipping the road for their own vicinity, and not in the payment of debt fifty or one hundred miles distant from them and their business.

5. Resolved, That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Legislature of Mississippi, in authorizing the Chickasaw School Fund to be loaned to the Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company, never contemplated that fund was to be used in the payment of debts incurred for building the Road beyond, or outside of the region of the Chickasaw County, and that any such application of the fund would be illegitimate and contrary to the intention of the Act.

6. Resolved, That, in view of the rights of others, or persons to whom the Income-Bond holders have no objection to making, we hereby declare that, as long as the road stops where they do, our freight and passage money belong to them. If they, or their friends for them, claim the exclusive right to pocket the proceeds of our trade and travel, we, on the other hand, claim the right to have and to enjoy the full benefit of the Road—to have it brought within a reasonable distance of our cotton, grain, and other produce—our farms, store houses, and mills—built up, and as far as the Road may be built up, or put in running order such bonds justly, and so far as the holders of such bonds justly, entitled to all the privileges claimed for them, and with their vested rights we have no disposition to interfere; but, at the same time, we should like to be allowed the privilege of using the profits arising from our own trade in the extension of the road, as provided for by the charter, and as demanded by the wants of the country and the best interests of the Road itself. The means we desire to use, under existing circumstances, avail the bondholder little or nothing—apply them as we propose, and they will prove to have been his best security.

7. Resolved, That, though our votes may count but little and our influence less, we hereby declare that, in justice to ourselves, we cannot support, for Director or other officer of the Board, any man who may be known to be opposed to the aim and spirit of these resolutions; and that we hereby recommend to the Stockholders in the interior to be present, in person or by proxy, at the next annual election, to look after their interest in an enterprise upon which, years ago, they have bestowed so much of their labor and treasure, without having received, thus far, any commensurate return for such expenditure.

8. Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the Secretary to His Excellency, the Governor of this State, and that we respectfully appeal to him, if the views herein expressed should meet his approval, to withhold the Chickasaw School Fund from the officers of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company, until he may be satisfied that they are prepared to use the same in the manner contemplated by the Act of the Legislature.

9. Resolved, That the Chairman appoint a Committee of persons, whose duty it shall be to proceed to Mobile at as early a day as practicable, after the organization of a new Board of Directors, and confer with them in reference to the objects of this meeting.

10. Resolved, That the editor of the "Prairie News" be requested to publish these proceedings.

The preamble and resolutions having been adopted without a dissenting voice, the Chairman then, upon designated the following gentlemen as the Committee provided for by the ninth resolution, viz: J. B. GLADNEY, E. J. CHAMBERS, W. O. COOK,

ELI ABBOTT, J. B. GLADNEY, FLEMING HODGES, JOS. BRETNRY, B. F. WHEELER, P. C. HUBBARD, and W. F. WALKER, of Chickasaw, and B. H. SHEPPARD of Monroe.

A resolution was then introduced and adopted, respectfully urging upon the annual meeting of the Stockholders the propriety of giving to Chickasaw and Monroe counties, each, a Director in the new Board, and recommending ELI ABBOTT and B. H. SHEPPARD as the choice of the meeting to be voted for as Directors for this section of the country.

A resolution was also adopted requesting Stockholders to send in their proxies to some member of the Committee at Okolona.

Whereupon the meeting adjourned.

JOHN S. TOPP, Chairman.

W. O. COOK, Secretary.

EDITORIAL NEWS ITEMS.

The Indian mutineers have been defeated by Gen. Campbell. Lucknow has been evacuated by the English.

The British man of war Sappho captured a slave of 1000 tons on the west coast of Africa. Eight hundred slaves were thrown overboard by the slavers, half of whom were drowned.

The U. S. Steamship Fulton left Aspinwall on the 17th, to convey Gen. Lamur to San Juan del Norte.

A British mail steamer, the Valima, has been wrecked. All saved.

Davis of Mississippi has made a fiery speech against the Free-soilism of the North, and threatened war against it.

Facing the Music.

Both Houses of the Alabama Legislature have unanimously adopted the following preamble and resolutions, which show very plainly which way the cat will jump, in case Kansas is rejected under the Lecompton Constitution:

The Committees on Federal Relations, of the Senate and House of Representatives, acting jointly, under instructions from their respective Houses, have unanimously agreed upon the following Preamble and Joint Resolutions, providing for the call of a Convention, by the Executive, upon the refusal by Congress to admit Kansas into the Union, with the Constitution recently adopted by a Convention of the people, at Lecompton; and recommend their unanimous adoption:

Allen C. Jones, of Greene and Marengo; Chas. C. Smith, of Senate Committee; E. C. Bullock, of Barbour;

Baldwin;

J. S. Storrs, of Jefferson and Shelby; John D. Rader, of Limestone and Morgan;

James McKim, of Dale and Henry; Robert S. Heflin, of Randolph; Wm. Fleming, of Madison;

Adam C. Felder, of Montgomery and Autauga;

James B. Martin, of Talledega Co., Ch'n of House Committee;